

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

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Colleges lobby for changes

By Chadwick Severn

Ontario's applied arts and technology colleges are making inroads on getting a new charter, according to a report presented to college student associations at Humber College.

Doon Student Association president Ellen Menage and vice-president of education Michael Harris attended on July 25 the quarterly meeting of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association, a coalition representing two-thirds of the 25 applied arts and technology colleges in the province.

"It's really a lobbying association," said Menage of the association. "But in a calm sense of the word. You sit on committees and input that way. It's very well seen by the administration."

The association mainly exists to provide a line of communication between the student associations of the colleges around Ontario, so they don't operate in the dark.

"This (meeting) was more of a team-building session," said Menage.

The report on the new charter, prepared by the administrations of Ontario's colleges through their Association for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO), calls for urgent new legislative and regulatory and policy frameworks for colleges.

The report says applied arts and technology colleges were founded in 1965 by then education minister William Davis and have graduated 650,000 students. The report calls for increased authority for boards of governors at colleges, increased institutional flexibility to create enterprises like college-universities and the ability to hand out degrees as well as diplomas in certain fields.

The legislative and regulatory changes recommended by the report include eliminating catchment areas, continued tuition deregulation and increased authority over collective academic and support staff bargaining.

The report says colleges need to develop different revenue-generating enterprises to expand their capabilities to be a public service. These enterprises include college-college and college-university institutes, polytechnics, venture capital corporations and incorporated applied research centres.

The report also says that universities alone will not be able to handle the demand for degrees when the double-cohort of students enter post-secondary education, to which applied degree credentials would provide a partial solution.

Menage said she does have a few concerns with the charter as it now stands. One passage notes that "all 25 (applied arts and technology) colleges are achieving their original mandate in different ways from each other and from their origins."

"Basically what it is saying is that colleges are not a system anymore," said Menage. "For Conestoga College, we've made huge steps forward working with the private sector. Maybe other colleges' KPI (key performance indicators) aren't as high as ours."

Although the report was prepared by the administrations of the colleges, it is up to the provincial government to make any changes to the charter.

"This report is a lot of fluff," said Menage. "It doesn't say how or when they're going to get there."

International relations



International students from left to right, Clark Cheng, Lauren Tan and Elizabeth Qiu, all from China, and Carol Huang from Taiwan, write down their Chinese names which are, from left, Yue, Jia, Xiao and Tzu-Tien. (Photo by Linda Wright)

Raccoon rabies could strike Doon campus

By Brad Dugard

A new strain of the rabies virus has finally made it to Canada, and it could appear on the campus of Conestoga College at any time, according to Mike Soots, a veterinarian at the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society.

"The chances (of rabies appearing at Conestoga) are pretty good," he said. "We have a large raccoon population and we have known that if raccoon rabies ever got into southwestern Ontario it would be a problem."

His comments came hours after a second case of raccoon rabies was discovered in the Prescott area of the province.

The first case, located in Domville, north-east of Brockville, was discovered on July 12, when a raccoon was found dead in a dog pen.

The second case was located 15 kilometres west of the first case.

Raccoon rabies was first identified in Florida in the 1940s. Since that time, both American and Canadian governments have been actively fighting its spread northward.

The strain of the disease has been across the border, in New York State, for some time and the crossing was expected.

In both Canadian cases the Ministry of Natural Resources implemented what it calls a Point Infection Control program, which involves live trapping and euthanizing all raccoons and skunks within a five-kilometre radius of the incident. A second line of defence calls for animal immunization within 10 kilometres of a known case of raccoon rabies.

It is estimated that 250 raccoons have been euthanized with an unknown number of skunks put down.

According to a Ministry of Natural Resources press release, the raccoon strain of rabies is more dangerous to both animals and people because of the social nature of raccoons.

Soots added these animals are also more abundant in urban areas.

"There are a lot of raccoons around and people should really try to avoid them," he said. "(Raccoons) are more concentrated in your backyard than they are in agricultural areas. They do like people, and will hang out where people are."

He said that any warm-blooded creature, including humans, can catch either the fox or raccoon strain of rabies but the raccoon version is more dangerous because of the friendly nature of the animals.

He said that if you observe a raccoon or other animal acting strangely, you should run as fast as you can and call the Humane Society or the Ministry of Natural Resources.

People should keep an eye out for the signs of an infected animal. These signs include: loss of fear of humans; signs of paralysis - drooping head, sagging jaw; excitement or aggression; and attacking a stationary object or other animals.

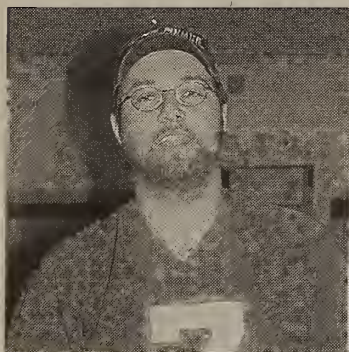
Soots said the most important thing for people to do is to ensure their pets are immunized against the rabies virus.



(Photo illustration by Brad Dugard)

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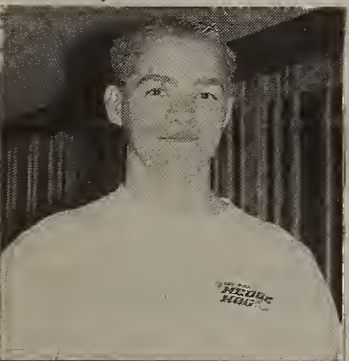
Conestoga full of adventure-seeking students



Marc Lang, third-year robotics and automation student, drives his motorcycle fast.



Melissa Lehman, first-year general business student, said skydiving was an amazing experience.



Steve Coleman, vice president of student affairs, went parasailing in Acapulco.

Story and Photos By Michelle Lehmann

There are some people in this crazy world who live for adventure. They get a thrill from sensational activities that tempt fate, demand courage and create an adrenaline rush. Many of these people, craving the fear linked to offbeat sports, just want to try something new and out of the ordinary.

All 15 of the individuals randomly surveyed at Conestoga College are Evel Knievels at heart. It only took them seconds to describe their memorable, wild and bizarre experience. In varying degrees, some defied gravity, some challenged Mother Nature, some needed excitement, but all had fun.

Marc Lang, a third-year robotics and automation student, admits that he is a thrill seeker who likes speed.

"I've done some crazy things but the dumbest is driving my motorcycle because I like to go fast," he said. "It's not really a sport but it's a rush and it's dangerous."

Another speed demon is Nicole DeVeau, a third-semester journalism student, who participates in motorcycle racing with her boyfriend.

"I thought it looked interesting, so I decided to try it," said DeVeau. "I loved it, now I race all the time."

For some of the daredevils at Doon campus, trying an adventure sport once was enough to satisfy their curiosity.

John Herring, third-year robotics and automation student, said snowboarding was something he once tried with friends.

"I really enjoyed it but won't do it again because I hurt my wrist pretty bad," he said.

CAMPUS QUESTION:

What is the wildest sport you've ever participated in?

Diane Santos, media relations technician for the rec centre, also learned the thrill of her escapade on Drop Zone at Paramount Canada's Wonderland didn't outweigh the risk involved.

"I loved it but one time is enough because if the brakes don't work you'll be a pancake," said Santos.

Cliff diving in the Chapleau Reserve up north was great said Roger Wood, a robotics and automation student, but one time was enough to jump from 50 feet into the water.

"One second I was on the cliff and the next thing I knew I was swimming to the surface," Wood said.

Others confessed they can't get enough of the rush and keep going back for more.

A reoccurring challenge for Kris Taggart, a robotics and automation student, is mountain biking. He said it's a great way to stay in shape and it's always exciting.

"You never know when a tree will be in front of you and there's nothing to do but jump it and hope for the best," said Taggart. "You really need quick reflexes or you're in trouble."

Some of the adventure seekers admitted their experiences would not be considered off-the-wall by some but felt they were pretty wild.

Something not so offbeat but definitely challenging is football, said Brad Kuntz.

"When you're in the middle of a

game that you need to win, you're performance level rises and the adrenaline just starts pumping," he said.

Karl Garner, promotion co-ordinator for the Doon Student Association, said the Beer Mile was pretty eventful.

"It's a crazy thing I do with friends every year just for fun," said Garner. "It's a rush because I always manage to be standing at the end."

The Extreme Sky Flyer at Wonderland was thrilling, said Kim Kroeker, a management student.

"It was fun, exciting and I'd definitely do it again. Actually I have done it a few times," said Kroeker.

Battling the wind and water created many once-in-a-lifetime challenges and memories for some daring students.

Stuart MacKinnon, a third-year telecom student, said his rush came on an incredibly windy day sailing on Lake Erie near Port Dover.

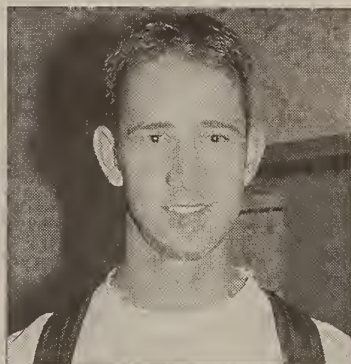
"At times the boat was almost sideways. It was all I could do to stay afloat," said MacKinnon.

Melissa Lehman, first-year general business, said skydiving had to be the most amazing experience she ever had.

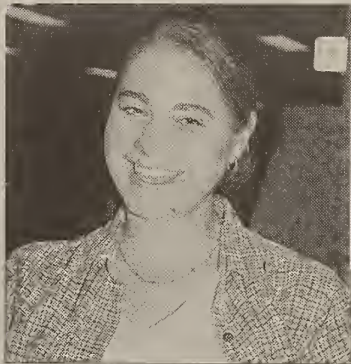
"It's something I'll remember forever but it's hard to describe," she said. "The 60-second free fall was unbelievable because I felt so completely free."

Steve Coleman, vice-president of student affairs, said the most exciting thing he'd ever done was parasailing in Acapulco. He said he decided to try it after watching others have so much fun.

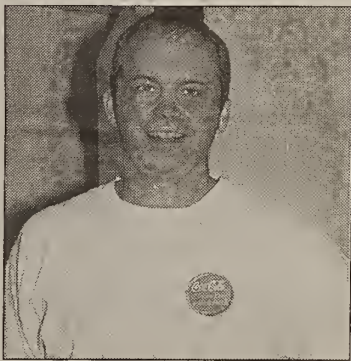
"It was awesome, I think I screamed my lungs out," said Coleman. "I always wanted to fly and that's as close to it as I could get."



Kris Taggart, third-year robotics and automation student, loves mountain biking.



Kim Kroeker, management studies student, enjoyed the Extreme Sky Flyer at Canada's Wonderland.



Stuart MacKinnon, third-year telecom student, attempted sailing on a really windy day.

College reform

Conestoga officials prepared for any review

By Brad Dugard

If a recent London Free Press story is correct, Ontario's colleges and universities may be in for some big changes.

According to the front-page article, which ran on July 27, Dianne Cunningham, minister for training, colleges and universities, said the province is going to overhaul colleges and universities, applying the same reforms that have been experienced by the health-care system and school boards.

However, a spokesperson for the minister told Spoke the comments were taken out of context.

"The minister talked to her local paper . . . and they were going to

talk about their local college and university. I think the intent of her comments were taken (out of context)," said Rick Frame, communications adviser to the minister.

He said Cunningham has not released any statements about reform and is still being briefed on issues facing the newly formed ministry.

But Frame did not rule out changes.

"(The minister feels) if we find an opportunity to make some changes and the people that will be affected by the changes like it, then we will have an opportunity to make things better."

Kevin Mullan, vice-president, finance and administrative opera-

tions for Conestoga, said the college is prepared for any review of the post-secondary system, although no official communications have been received.

"Conestoga has always been quite open to productivity measures and reviews of how efficient and effective we are. The Key Performance Indicator (a recent province-wide survey) is a good example of this."

He said that even if the Free Press article was correct, it would not cause him concern.

"That (reviewing the system) is probably not an unfair thing for any minister, much less a new minister, to step in and say, 'One of the first things I've got to do is to take a look at how efficient and effective the use of the funds are.'"

Michael Dale, a political science teacher at the college, said he will take a wait-and-see approach to the minister's comments.

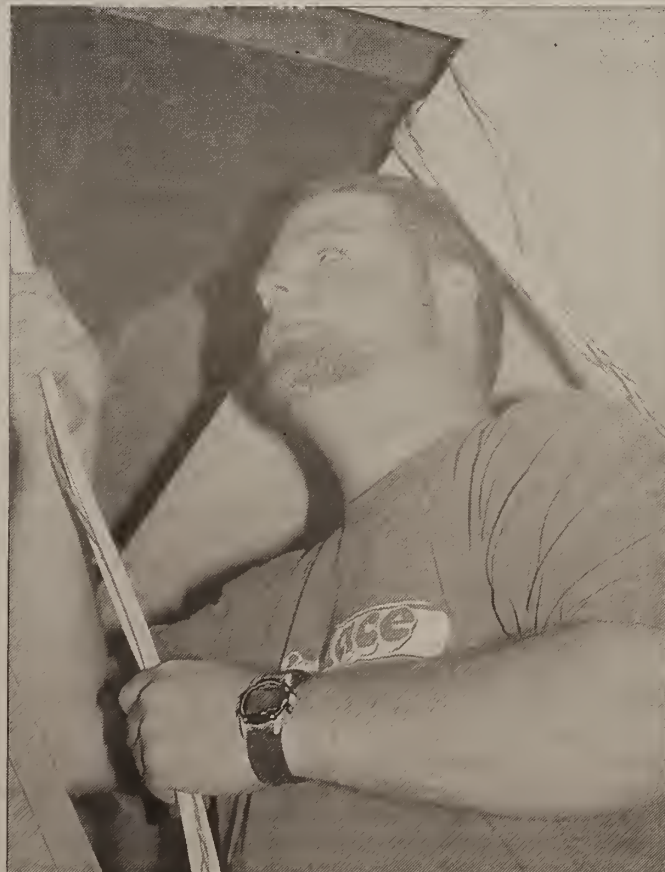
"I'll give her the benefit of the doubt and see what she does in the future. I know there have been changes ongoing (from the Ontario government) and the education system has seen changes at every level."

Correction

In the July 19 edition of Spoke, a story titled "Conestoga looks to the future: \$28,025 surplus a small addition to reserve fund," incorrectly reported a drop in spending for salaries. It should have stated the actual amount to be spent this year on salaries for full and part-time support and

academic staff will increase over the previous year. Spending on part-time employees will increase five per cent and full-time by three per cent. The majority of the part-time increase will be in the areas of continuing education and training and development. Spoke regrets the error.

Getting wired



Kristin Murphy, maintenance worker, feeds cables into the ceiling for new computers on July 27.

(Photo by Michelle Lehmann)

Youth rally sends message about street kids

By Angela Clayfield

There was a young man with spiky fluorescent hair wearing heavy black army boots, a tattered sleeveless denim jacket decorated with anti-racist slogans and a leather choker with metal spikes.

There was also a woman wearing jeans and a simple T-shirt there with her family. It looked more like a small street party, but in reality it was a peaceful rally. And despite the rain, a few of the devoted participants camped out with the homeless in front of Kitchener City Hall July 23.

The issues presented all involved youth, such as homelessness, poverty, respect for the environment and harassment of youth and the homeless by police and security guards.

"It was kind of refreshing," says Davin Charney with the K-W Youth Collective.

People of all ages and styles were present to make themselves heard at the second annual Don't Blame the Youth Rally.

City Hall's civic square was decorated with a plethora of chalk drawings and messages, which were partially washed away by the rain.

Some messages bordered on libel, like the one that read "Mike Harris sucks badly," while others, like



Matthew Rish, above, and "Ken", below, add their marks to Civic Square during the second annual Don't Blame the Youth Rally.

(Photos by Angela Clayfield)



"These feet were made for walking tall; take the power back," drove home positive messages.

Participants were encouraged to be more careful with the environment, to give the youth the benefit of a doubt,

"There were so many spontaneous things (happening)" said Charney, including a few break-dancing participants. "Everyone was able to contribute."

to help out the homeless or less fortunate and to respect all kinds of people.

The issues presented all involved youth, such as homelessness, poverty, respect for the environment and harassment of youth and the homeless by police and security guards.

This year's turnout of approximately 300 participants was much higher than the first year's which had less than 100 people in attendance.

However, the police and security presence appeared to be less than it was last year.

Charney said in 1998 there were up to 10 uniformed officers and some undercover officers present.

"This year there weren't any police, it seemed," he said, adding there were likely some undercover officers in attendance.

"The police kind of left us alone and so did the security guards," Charney said.

The event was organized by the Kitchener-Waterloo branches of Greenpeace, Homes Not Bombs, Food Not Bombs (the group that has been giving out free food at City Hall), Against Racism Action, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, the Global Community Centre and the K-W Youth Collective.

In addition to the speeches, those who took part were treated to free hot food provided by Food Not Bombs and the K-W Youth Collective.

A variety of bands kept those in attendance entertained offering rock, punk and rave music to the chalk-happy participants.

Doon campus bookstore gears up for fall semester

By John Oberholtzer

As summer classes wind down and many instructors and employees of Conestoga College take their vacations, a corner of the campus is whirring with activity.

The fall semester is set to start in a month and Vanda Kelly and the staff of the bookstore are working feverishly to ensure all the necessary books will be in stock before the annual deluge of students in September.

Kelly, who is the college's manager of retail operations, said this is the start of the busiest time of year for the bookstore. One of the main challenges is tracking down some of the more obscure textbooks.

"There are a lot of one-off publishers and often we can't even find some of these small publishing companies on the Internet," she said. "It's generally a group, an organization or an individual who's published their own book."

Adding to the hectic pace in August is the recent expansion of the bookstore, which has almost been completed. The extra space was necessary as a result of some recent developments.

"We had some programs that transferred here from Waterloo and some programs such as LASA (law and security administration) where they're doing almost a double intake."

It's hard to compete with a place like Chapters where they have frequent reader cards on top of the 30 per cent off best sellers that they offer.

Kelly, who has held her position since 1992, is also in charge of ordering books for Conestoga's Waterloo, Stratford and Guelph campuses.

With the substantial cost of some textbooks, she agreed that a used book buy-back, which is common at universities, would benefit students.

However, the current procedure at the college does not allow this to happen.

She said faculty members are not required to make their textbook selections until most students have left for the summer, making it impossible for the bookstore to know which used books they could buy from students in the

spring and sell again in the fall.

"And if we had a buy-back in the fall it would be pretty tough because we would have had to anticipate and basically guess how many students would want to sell their used books and then order new (stock) for the balance."

When asked about the possibility of the bookstore carrying current best sellers, Kelly said she'd love to be able to do it, but there are too many factors which would not make it worthwhile for the campus store.

"It's hard to compete with a place like Chapters where they have frequent reader cards on top of the 30 per cent off best sellers that they offer."

Unwanted weed invader in Doon campus ponds

By Lindsay Gibson

The beautiful purple weed that many may admire as they look out at the pond at the Doon campus of Conestoga College isn't so beautiful.

This weed, known as purple loosestrife, invades wetlands, choking out all other vegetation. Here at the college the loosestrife isn't the nuisance it is in other areas of the region. According to Peter Higgins, groundskeeper at Conestoga, this weed isn't a problem because we do not have swamps on campus.

"I have a lot of machinery (such as a lawnmower) to take care of it if it gets out of hand," said Higgins.

One loosestrife plant has the ability to produce two million seeds, which then float in rapidly moving water, growing along the banks, displacing 60 per cent of the native vegetation, said Larry Roszell, watershed management planning programmer for the Grand River Conservation Authority.

According to Roszell, purple loosestrife is everywhere along the Grand and Speed rivers.

"We set up programs a few years ago to monitor it and see where it is," said Roszell.

Purple loosestrife was introduced to

North America in the early 1800s from Eurasia and spread through eastern North America by 1900.

In 1997 Jim Corrigan, lecturer at the University of Guelph, worked with the Grand River Conservation Authority on these programs, which introduced beetles into the area to combat the loosestrife.

Two types of beetles, *Galerucella pusilla* and *Galerucella californiensis*, were brought from Europe to North America to aid in the removal of purple loosestrife.

According to a July 28, 1997 article in Spoke, the beetles were tested before entering North America and it was found that the beetles would eat the purple loosestrife first if given a choice.

Since 1997 Corrigan has not done anything else with the beetle program because funds ran out.

"Luckily, the beetles don't need us to hold their hand," said Corrigan.

Since the beetles were introduced there has been a 90 per cent reduction in biomass along the Grand River from above Waterloo to below Cambridge where the purple loosestrife is now controlled.

There are some controlled areas in Toronto and Hamilton, but the best results have been in K-W, Guelph and Cambridge, said Corrigan.

"Things have gone very well."



Safety must be key part of body piercing

By Lesley Turnbull

He walks into the room rolling a table full of sterilized supplies towards a chair that resembles one you would sit in at the dentist's office.

He puts on his gloves and tells his patient to have a seat. Iodine is placed on the area to be worked on and two marks are made to help label the spot.

The flesh is clamped and the needle is inserted through the skin. A cork is placed at the base of the needle while the professional piercer reaches over for ... the jewelry. It's slipped through the needle and the skin decorating the area, which couldn't be decorated before, with a gold ring and a black ball.

For Marco Vicario, piercing belly buttons is a part of his job almost every day.

He is a professional piercer for Tora Tattoo in Waterloo and has been decorating people's bodies for about seven years.

"In general, I got into body piercing because I wanted to help people," Vicario said. "I was interested in body art in general and I had a lot of friends who were just getting different body parts pierced with ear-piercing guns and getting their bodies damaged because of that."

Vicario knew there was a better way, so about eight years ago he

researched it, contacted people in San Francisco where there was a larger body-piercing community and found out there were professional ways to pierce your body.

"It (professional body piercing) was really small then," he said.

Originally, he was doing it for himself, his girlfriend and some close friends.

"All of a sudden it started getting really big and I started getting calls from people I'd never heard of that got my number from friends and eventually it became too much to do out of my house," said Vicario.

Now he supports his family by piercing. He said to become a piercer the best thing to do is an apprenticeship under a professional.

"That's the only way you can really get any experience," said Vicario. "Under the guidance of a knowledgeable professional."

Some companies, some good, some bad, offer seminars that you can pay for and spend as little as a weekend or as long as six weeks to teach you about piercing, Vicario said.

"The professional ones that are



Marco Vicario, professional piercer, works at Tora Tattoo in Waterloo. (Photo by Lesley Turnbull)

responsible emphasize that you're not a body piercer (just from the information that they give you), it's just background information," he said.

He said seminars are good for people who have already done apprenticeships and want to learn more or for people who are just learning about piercing and want to enter an apprenticeship.

Vicario said you can't take a seminar, even if it's six

weeks long, and become a professional piercer.

"It's not just a hobby," he said. "I'm always learning more and getting more technical experience and figuring stuff out. I think it's part of being a professional that you're always open to change and you're always learning more."

All of his equipment, anything that is not disposable, is sterilized with an autoclave, which is an apparatus that sterilizes by steam under pressure.

"It (an autoclave) is the only safe way to sterilize anything," said Vicario. "So when people say something is sterilized they can't just

mean they've wiped it with a disinfectant. That's not sterilized."

He said anything that can't go through the autoclave is either covered with a disposable barrier, like a glove for the hands, or it's disposable, like corks, toothpicks, gauze and elastics.

Vicario uses different gauges of needles for piercing the body.

"People think surgical needles take skin out but they don't," he said. "They just make a little hole

and the jewelry slips into that hole."

The weirdest thing he said he's pierced is the web of the hand.

"Genital piercing is more shocking to people who don't think about that," said Vicario. "Same thing five years ago when you said you've got your tongue pierced and most people would have thought that was just impossible. Now people know it's done and a lot of people have it."

He said so much has changed in professional piercing and he has to take it all in.

"I have to go with the changes because we're learning to be better and safer all of the time," said Vicario.

He said he has a stressful job mostly because people are really afraid and he absorbs all that tension.

"I have to be a counsellor and a friend, I have to mentally hold people's hands all the time," he said. "I have people almost crying sometimes, not because it hurt, but beforehand because of fear, and I have people jump up as soon as it's done and hug me and thank me. It's a pretty emotional thing."

He likes to think that his job isn't done until the piercing has healed for his client.

"I'm your piercer until you go to someone else or until your piercing's healed. That's my job."

Canadian experience ends for international student

By Linda Wright

Good food, good holidays and good movies is how Mei-Ling Lo, an international student from Taiwan, describes life in Canada.

Lo lives with a home-stay family while attending Conestoga College. The family treats her like a daughter, she said adding that the food prepared at the family's home is delicious.

"When I came here I weighed 48 kilograms. Now I weigh 54 kilograms."

Lo, who is in her early 20s, blames food such as hamburgers for her weight gain. In Taiwan, people only eat veggies and rice, she said.



Mei-Ling Lo, an international student from Taiwan, uses a calculator dictionary to help with her English pronunciation. (Photo by Linda Wright)

"We get fat in Canada."

Lo is studying English, which she started in September 1998, and will be leaving the college at the end of August.

Lo heard about Conestoga College while studying English in Taiwan.

When she's at the college, Lo carries around a calculator dictionary and if she is having problems saying a word, she types in the word and the dictionary pronounces it. Most of the international students have one, she said.

"It helps with my pronunciation," she said, and is also useful in preparing for presentations.

Aside from college life, Lo finds time to go to the movies.

She says she liked Star Wars and Titanic, but couldn't believe people would buy the cups, T-shirts and toys.

"Everyone gets so crazy over these movies," she said.

Sometimes Lo and a friend hop on a train to Mississauga and watch a movie from Hong Kong, which is being played at one of the local theatres, she said.

Lo has seen some of the main attractions such as Niagara Falls, Wonderland and the CN Tower.

Lo has also experienced Halloween and Christmas, both of which they don't celebrate in Taiwan.

"It's so cute seeing kids dressed up in Superman costumes."

At Christmas, some of the younger people in Taiwan may go to a disco, she said. But in Taiwan they don't have any real celebrations such as the traditional turkey dinner.

"Turkey and Italian food are my favourite."

In Taiwan, Lo's days are filled, as she works eight hours a day and studies accounting for about six hours in the evening.

When asked what jobs she has had, she stood up and pretended to pump gas.

She has also been a waitress and a sales clerk.

Lo will be leaving the college at the end of August and said she is going to miss her teacher, Jill Cumming, and classmates. What will she be doing in the future?

"Maybe I will teach ABCs to small kids in Taiwan."

Plenty of money in financial aid pot

By Anna Sajfert

College and university students need not dish out over \$200 for scholarship searches because they can now get a free screening over the Web.

Internet sites such as www.studentawards.com and www.scholarshipscanada.com and offer an avalanche of information on awards, bursaries and fellowships available to students attending Canadian post-secondary institutions.

Even better, you need not be a die-hard student to be eligible for scholarships.

"The student needs to demonstrate a financial need in order to be eligible for financial aid," said Carol Walsh, financial aid administrator at Conestoga College.

She said the college had about \$600,000 in the financial "pot" last year, of which \$300,000 was collected by students.

"We gave out about 750 bursaries to the last graduating class, but some students could have received more."

The rest of the money went toward creating jobs for students at the campus, Walsh said.

Such employment opportunities include peer tutoring, the Walk Safe program and assistants or helpers at the Learning Resource Centre, Kenneth E. Hunter Recreational Centre and computer labs.

"Two hundred and five students were hired last year,"

Walsh said, adding higher-skilled jobs pay more.

While Conestoga College doesn't have its own scholarship program, because colleges receive less money than universities, school officials are aggressively canvassing for more funds, she said.

"Most of our scholarships are awards which are given out in the final year of study," Walsh said.

Scholarship funding, which includes all means of financial aid, is taken out of the tuition increase each year, she said.

"The Ministry of Education and Training takes 10 out of the 30 per cent tuition increase for the financial aid pot."

Although most scholarships are handed out to students upon their graduation, there is one entrance scholarship available. The Four Points Hotel entrance scholarship is available to one student in the food and beverage management program who has demonstrated the highest high-school academic standing.

Walsh said the latest addition to the financial aid list was the Metis Nation of Ontario student award of \$10,000, which is available to Metis students only.

"One student has signed up so far," she said.

Scholarship ads and updates are posted in the student services office.

All other inquiries can be answered by the registrar's office, Walsh said.

Hemp is happening in southern Ontario

By Brian Gall

Sixty years of prohibition against one of nature's most versatile plants came to an end last year, and this summer 1,200 hectares of hemp are to be grown in southern Ontario.

Two hemp-fibre processing companies, Hempline of Delaware (near London) and Kenex of Chatham-Kent, will start harvesting by early August.

Geoff Kime, president of Hempline, said there is a good possibility for expanding the 400 hectares his company has contracted from farmers in Elgin, Middlesex, Perth, Oxford and Lambeth counties.

"There's definitely room for more acres in terms of the available land base here, it's just a question of building the market for products, which is well underway."

Hempline's major applications are in textiles. They separate the long, outer hemp fibres for use in carpet and upholstery fabrics. But they also process hemp to produce paper and other industrial products such as "hemp chips", which are made from the stalk core and used as bedding for horses.

Kime said it is very simple to get a hemp growing licence and it is even easier once applications are approved.

"There's no additional burden in terms of the regulations for expanding our acres," he said.

Growers have to submit an application identifying where their

fields are going to be located and what applications the plants will be used for. A police background check is also part of the procedure.

Kime's business got its start in 1994 when a Health Canada research permit for a 10-acre experiment near Tillsonburg allowed the company to plant the first legal hemp crop on this continent (outside wartime) in six decades.

"We've been growing it longer than anybody in North America, in modern times. We're sort of true leaders in the industry."

*Geoff Kime,
president of Hempline*

"We've been growing it longer than anybody in North America, in modern times. We're sort of the true leaders in the industry," Kime said.

During the spring of 1998, Health Canada received 374 applications for commercial licences and 269 were granted. All but 61 were from Ontario and Manitoba. Farmers from across Canada had joined in the experience already shared by growers in roughly 25 other countries.

After spending a considerable

amount of money on research and development for a lot of their own technology for processing, Kime said Hempline has overcome the barriers facing other companies wishing to enter the marketplace.

"I think a lot of companies are interested in this idea. It's pretty complicated, though. There is a lot involved in producing products (access to technology and understanding the market, for example) so I think other companies are going to look at this, but there is a lot involved."

It was up to Health Canada to issue the permit, rather than Agriculture Canada, because cannabis (which includes hemp and marijuana) was originally made illegal for its content of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. Growing either form of cannabis became an illegal activity in Canada in 1938 when the minister of pensions and national health introduced an amendment to the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. Hemp and marijuana both contain the drug but hemp has only traces of it. Top-grade, hydroponically grown marijuana contains about 20 per cent.

Licensed agronomists checked hemp fields by the end of July for crops surpassing the legal limit of THC. Health Canada has set the amount at 0.3 per cent. Any plant with more than that must be destroyed.

An economic motive for the return of hemp became obvious in the early 1990s when magazine

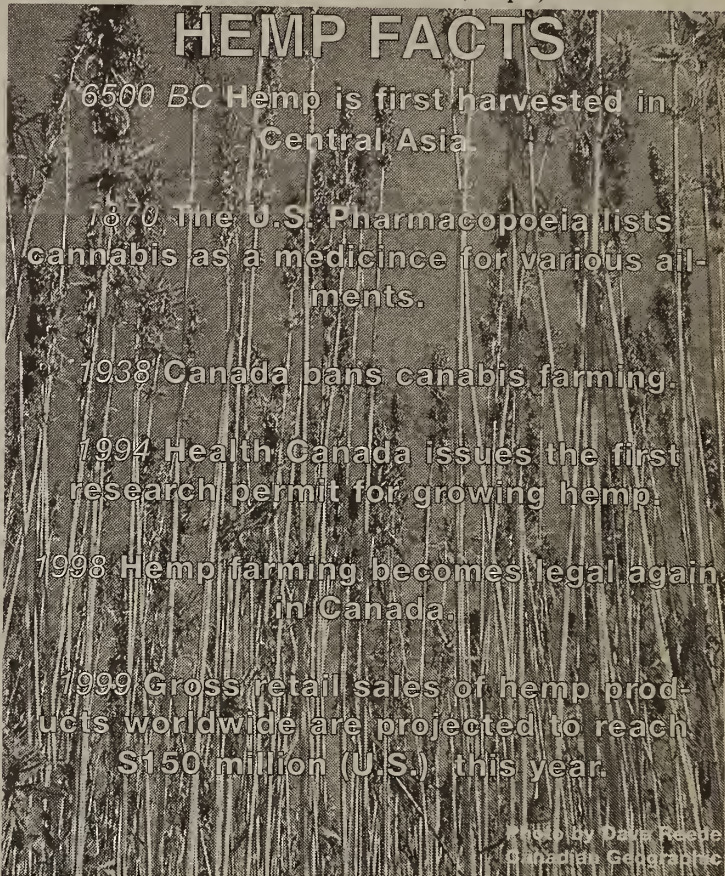
campaigns began to push the plant's durable qualities on the public.

"A crop more versatile than the soybean, the cotton plant, and the Douglas fir tree put together... whose products are interchangeable with those from timber or petroleum... that grows like Jack's beanstalk with minimal tending."

Automotive maker BMW is using hemp in car doors and dash-

boards and the plant's seeds are being pressed for their valuable oil in use for petroleum. There are a reported 25,000 uses of hemp.

Hempline lists uses such as: cordage (rope, twine), fuel (methanol), personal health and hygiene (salad oils and other food products to pharmaceuticals and soaps), pulp and paper products (diapers, newsprint, cardboard, currency) and textiles (clothing, curtains, carpet).



Council promotes aluminum with print ads

By Brian Gall

Each year in Canada, about 2.25 billion aluminum cans are recycled. In Ontario, not enough of them are from beer.

Summertime is when beverage consumption increases and The Aluminum Marketing Council (AMC) has launched print advertisements to make the public aware of the overall benefits of the can.

Promoting the container's high value and environmental friendliness as a packaging material, the AMC hopes to make people aware of what it calls discrimina-

tory regulations against aluminum, such as the hidden beer can tax.

A single use alcohol container levy was introduced by the NDP government in 1992 and is actually a non-tariff barrier designed to protect the Canadian brewing industry, according to Darcy McNeill, executive director of AMC.

"The American brewing industry is overwhelmingly oriented to canned packaging. One way that the government of Ontario can keep American beer out of the marketplace is to tax the container because free trade prohibits the

taxing of beer."

McNeill said, in order to avoid a trade challenge that the government called it an environmental tax and that is where the AMC felt they had to step in.

"Where that is a problem for us is that we are looking at going into different markets... and nobody likes having their product called environmentally unfriendly when it's not," he said.

AMC members include major aluminum producers and manufacturers.

"On our icon product, the aluminum beverage container, we've got this silly little environmental tax. But there's no real momentum to do anything about it," McNeill said.

So what the AMC is trying to do, he said, is create the momentum, educate the public, try to make people realize they are paying a hidden tax on beer and incite them to do something.

The first set of ads, launched on July 4, will be replaced by a second flight in the fall. New advertisements will encourage people to write their MPP, their finance minister (who is ultimately

responsible for the tax) and Premier Mike Harris.

McNeill said he hopes the public will stand up and say, "Look, we want a level playing field. We want to be able to choose the con-

to larger markets," McNeill said. "You can fill 3,400 cans with beer in a minute, whereas bottles can only be filled at about 300 to 400 a minute."

He said domestic brewers here could be putting more beer in cans. Canada is certainly a big enough beer market to do it, but that would be one less distinction between the Canadian and American product, he said.

Recycling of aluminum cans results on average, in a 98 per cent recovery of metal content. Each time a can is recycled, the metal is reused, preserving natural resources. A can may be collected, recycled, rolled into can sheet, manufactured into another can, refilled with a product and returned to the store shelf in 60 days. The automotive sector, which is a market the AMC hopes to delve into, represents one of the largest opportunities for the aluminum industry. For every tonne of aluminum that replaces a tonne of steel in cars, 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are saved over the life of the vehicle.



Aluminum can facts.

Can plants can produce over 10 million cans each day.

Aluminum is used to produce beer and beverage cans around the world in an environmentally-responsible manner. Nothing is wasted in this process. Scrap generated from making cans and can ends is recycled.

Recycling programs bring scrap and used cans back to recycling centres.

It takes 95 per cent less energy to produce aluminum recycled can-body stock than to produce new material.

"Canning lines lend themselves to larger markets.

You can fill 3,400 cans with beer in a minute, whereas bottles can only be filled at about three to four hundred a minute."

*Darcy McNeill,
executive director of AMC*

tainer of our choice without being penalized for it."

He said a natural response from friends has been that Canadians don't drink beer in cans, Americans do. But in B.C. more than 75 per cent of packaged beer is made in cans. In Alberta, it's over 60 per cent and in the United States it is well over 70 per cent. Ontario, however, produces only nine per cent of its packaged beer in cans.

Putting beer in cans is more expensive than bottles based on raw materials but because more cans can be filled faster, the costs are compensated for in production.

"Canning lines lend themselves

Students prepare for career challenge

By Anna Sajfert

Roger Wood is exactly nine days away from presenting his final robotics and automation project to an audience of between 50 to 100 potential employers.

So is he nervous?

"A little bit," said the team leader. "Our biggest challenge is fear that we may not get the projects to work on presentation day."

A class of 33 robotics and automation students, 31 males and two females, have been designing and building two assembly lines: one for pens and the other for night-lights.

The idea behind the two projects, which were started in January, was to build lines for objects that would be both challenging and inexpensive, said Pat Tandreau, retired Conestoga College teacher of mechanical engineering.

Tandreau, who is replacing Dennis Gillies, who recently suffered a back injury, said former

projects were never completed 100 per cent.

However, he said this class is different, adding the students have the show under control.

"We have to keep positive," he said. "This is our one chance to show what we've got."

Students suggested numerous items to produce on the assembly lines, including Mr. Potato Heads, dental floss dispensers and oil filters, but all received an inadequate number of votes.

"Mr. Potato Head just didn't cut it," said Wood.

When the project entered the building stage, the robotics and automation students each donated \$100, collecting approximately \$3,800 to cover the cost of raw material, hardware, team shirts and night-lights.

While Magnus Pens, a pen manufacturer from Toronto, donated pens to the pen assembly-line group, the night-light group had to buy its own lights.

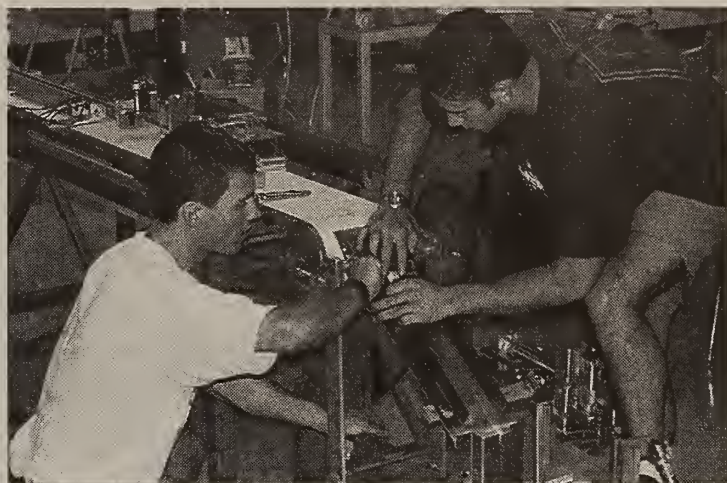
"There were no private donors to be approached for the night-light project since most are imported and cheap," Tandreau said.

Other financial contributions arrived from private donors such as ATS, who annually hire between three and five robotics and automation graduates, Breslau Electric Ltd., Engel Canada Inc. and small shops such as the Joseph Scrap Metal store in Cambridge.

"The college might reimburse a good share of project expenses such as hardware because it can be used for future projects," Tandreau said, adding the class will apply for refund once the dean returns from vacation.

Currently, the class is at the building stage, which also includes testing for system inaccuracies through the PICs (Programs Logic Controls).

Tandreau said the presentations, which will also include a written script memorized by the students,



Chris Taggart, left, and Brian King are packaging night lights using their newly constructed assembly line. (Photo by Anna Sajfert)

can be very rewarding in terms of contacts and employment.

Wood said he is currently working on designing a Web page with information about the two projects.

"It's a way to advertise the course and our skills, which can, in the

end, help to recruit employers," he said, adding the site link will be featured on the college's official site.

The presentation day is Aug 18 and will run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Woodworking Centre at the Doon campus.

Hoop dreams Basketball die-hards shoot for food

By Andrea Jesson

John Beechy believes the student body at the No. 1 college in Ontario should step up to stop starvation and have fun at the same time.

How? By either participating in or viewing a good game of b-ball.

In an attempt to launch and coach the Condors men's basketball team, Beechy, who is entering Conestoga's accounting program in September, is determined to not only have a team for basketball enthusiasts to play on, but raise food donations for the Waterloo Regional Food Bank at the same time.

Almost 10 years ago, funding for varsity sports at Conestoga was cut. Only high-profile sports survived, including hockey, men and women's soccer and women's softball, said Ian James, manager of athletics and recreation.

But Beechy wants basketball resurrected, so he approached the DSA for help. He was told there was money in the kitty for athletic activities, but only if all the players are full-time students and the group was a club, as opposed to a team.

So Beechy has been busy collecting student signatures and preparing a constitution, which he must submit to the DSA by September.

The accounting student said he doesn't want to take money from the student association but was forced to ask for help to get the club off the ground. He hopes it will be self-sufficient within three years. He believes the key is to minimize the cost and bring in sponsors to make up the difference in expenses.

"Just because the game is there,

it doesn't mean we can demand it," he said. "I don't want to take students' money if we don't have to."

As far as Beechy is concerned, a club team has many benefits for the players, the fans and the image of the college.

"If there is a God, I hope he's shining on us," said Beechy. "This is no longer 'Coconut College,' we are the No. 1 college."

He said marketing the game will have a lot to do with the success of the players and community charities.

"I'm a marketing genius, I want to see the game become a social

With the absence of regulations Beechy has created a philosophy of his own: General Patton meets Martin Luther King.

"The strategy for success is no surrender," he said. "You shoot for the stars to reach the moon."

Beechy wants players with determination, not just talent. A questionnaire is given to every member of the basketball club. It asks, "What is your dream?" and "How much do you want to make a year?"

Beechy said this is his way to determine where the players will be going in the future.

However, he believes there would be no future for basketball at Conestoga without the top man at the recreation complex.

"If it wasn't for Ian James there wouldn't be a basketball team," said Beechy.

Giving the game of basketball everything it's worth is a great idea, said James, who also said he would give every opportunity to the team as far as time and space at the recreation centre.

James said, however, the team has a long way to go and forming basketball intramurals will encourage students to come out and join in the fun.

"You gotta creep before you can crawl and crawl before you can walk," he said.

Although the Condors men's basketball team is in its infancy, and the players are still to be decided, several games have been already arranged.

The home opener for the team will be Oct. 22 at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre against Kitchener police officers.

For further information e-mail Beechy at beech@golden.net.

"I want them to think about who they're feeding.

The only way we're going to win is to beat starvation."

John Beechy, co-ordinator of men's basketball

event," he said. "I just want people to come out to the game and see how much fun it can be."

The goal is to attract as many people as possible, which in turn will produce more food donations.

"I don't want my guys to think about themselves, I want them to think of who they're feeding," he said. "The only way we're going to win is to beat starvation."

Being a club means the team won't have to follow OCAA rules. Beechy believes he has the freedom to express a cultural hip-hop game of basketball and plans to play music during the games. The team will also save money because they don't have to have paid referees.

He said the only rule for the team will be to have fun. Beechy said having no rules will encourage the team to shoot more, giving the players a better chance to get more baskets and in turn more food.

WLU multi-sports summer camp valuable for tykes

By Adam Wilson

OFF-CAMPUS

has a sport focus, but this year it's more multi-sport focused," said Parker.

If you are wondering what to do with your kids on these hot summer days when you have to go to work, Wilfrid Laurier University's Golden Hawk sports camp may be the place to send them.

The sports camp has been operating for four years and has just undergone some changes for this summer.

"In the past, the camp has been for kids aged nine to 12," said Lisa Parker, one of the camp's co-ordinators. "We've changed it to allow kids from the ages of six to 13 to participate."

Parker said that during the summer, a one-week mini camp is held for children ages four and five.

The camp runs for July and August in one-week sessions. A weekly session costs \$150 per child. This fee includes lunches and all expenses for things such as day trips to places like Sportsworld. Each child also receives a T-shirt and a hat commemorating their week at the camp, and they get access to Laurier's pool to swim at the end of each day.

"Before the four-week camp started, we had about 20 to 30 kids per week," said Parker. "Now, we have between 30 and 40."

The children are taught how to play new sports for most of them, like cricket, golf, archery and ultimate Frisbee, as well as playing old favourites like basketball, soccer, baseball and different track events.

"Each year, the camp always

more multi-sport focused," said Parker.

She said there are various day trips the group takes each week, such as bowling, rollerblading and each Wednesday they go to Sportsworld.

"They (children) get a positive experience during their week here," she said. "The kids seem to love it."

Parker also said it provides the children with positive role models as well as some valuable life skills.

"When they come to the camp they learn about co-operation, team-building skills, sportsmanship and how to make new friends," she said.

The camp also brings money into the school, which helps out the athletics department, said Parker.

The sports camp is operated by Parker and co-ordinator Tracy Linklater. Both leaders and the five counsellors are students from Laurier. The camp is set up through the athletics department, but Parker and Linklater "run everything except the financial end. Parker said the children seem to really be enjoying this summer's camp.

"We've had some families that have signed their children up for six of the eight weeks," she said.

She also said that this year's camp is not only going very well for all of those participating, but it's fun for those helping to organize the event.

"We're very, very pleased with how things are going this summer."

The Thin Red Line a brooding study of war

VIDEO REVIEW

By John Oberholtzer

Beautiful, but ugly.

Clear, but complicated.

In charge, but out of control.

These are some of the contradictions which collide in maverick director Terrence Malick's film *The Thin Red Line*. The Oscar-nominated movie, recently released on video, is an adaptation of James Jones's 1962 novel of American GIs fighting to capture a hill at Guadalcanal during the Second World War. But it's just a vague blueprint for the film, which could be better described as a moody, philosophic examination of the struggles between man and the world and man and himself.

The raw, bloody stench of war is set against a backdrop of sumptuous blues and greens as man invades nature and nature is indifferent. The lush, sun-splashed photography with an emphasis on striking, artistically framed shots is a strong counterpoint to the horror and chaos of war. Long shots of exotic animals and landscapes are quietly soothing but are quickly interrupted by death and destruction. In a voice-over, one of the soldiers ponders the idea that nature would not change, hun-



dreds of thousands of living creatures would not be affected, if either side — the Nazis or the Allies — won the war.

In most films depicting the Second World War it's clear who the enemy is, but *The Thin Red Line* has more in common with some of the Vietnam movies of

recent memory. The soldiers fight and bicker among themselves and the various voice-overs of different soldiers show the conflicts within each of them, which creates a philosophical, almost existential, atmosphere. John Wayne would be choking on his clusters.

Unlike most movies, where the

main characters are established in the first five minutes and they progress over the course of two hours, the characters don't behave any one identifiable way. The viewer doesn't get a firm grip on who the soldiers are because they have probably lost a sense of themselves. At one point, the spir-

itual Private Witt (well played by unknown Jim Caviezel) says to his sergeant (Sean Penn) that the sergeant is so difficult to figure out, it's as if they have to start their relationship over every day.

By not giving the stars (Penn, Nick Nolte, John Cusack, Woody Harrelson) any more focus than the relative unknowns (Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Elias Koteas), Malick has almost made the audience the main character. You are there as people wander in and out of your life, some never to return no matter how important they may have seemed. The aimlessness and anxiety of the characters is emphasized, which is a sharp contrast to the heroic jingoism of past Second World War movies.

Nolte is indelible as an older career soldier who has sacrificed much in life to the army, and who after 20 years is finally getting his chance to lead men into battle. Yet in a voice-over, he admits he has lost his family and it is too late for any chance of redemption. With Nolte's character, Malick shows that the person in charge is often not acting for the ultimate good of anyone.

Finally, with *The Thin Red Line*, Malick has taken the risk of making a lyrical, impressionistic film which will leave many unsatisfied. But perhaps the question Malick is asking is, "Isn't the concept of leaving a war movie satisfied an incredible contradiction?"

Alt rockers Ego Rich begin their musical journey

MUSIC REVIEW

By Angela Clayfield

The music industry has a lot to offer and there's a lot to learn, says Jamie Mahn, bassist for Ego Rich, a band so new they're virtually unheard of. But alternative rock fans won't have to wait much longer to be introduced to the group, because at the end of the summer these guys will be delivering their professional image to the public.

Mahn says you have to be ready with a style and image to present to a record company and if you don't work hard at this then the band won't go anywhere.

"A band is actually a business," he says. "There is no slacking off. You have to give it everything you have and more."

As well as having talent, having industry smarts is essential. Mahn says most bands fail because they are naïve about the music business. They think someone will come along and discover them, making them rich and famous. "That's not going to happen."

Ego Rich offers a different sound to alternative music that can only be heard by the devoted alternative rock fan, much the same way classical music fans can tell the difference between baroque and contemporary.

When their lead singer quit a year

ago, it was the "best thing that ever happened," Mahn says. For about nine months the three remaining members practised two to three times a week and became very tight with the music. And when Emi Rapoport jammed with them once, it clicked.

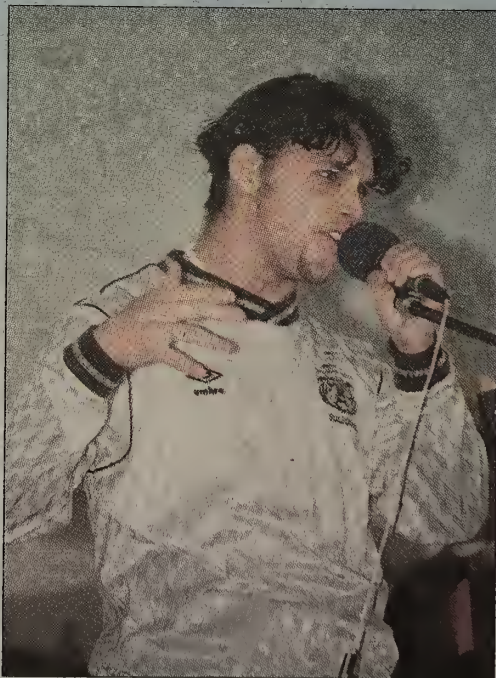
The tunes easily slip into the subconscious and remain as reminders long after the tape has ended. Perhaps this is because the mind longs for more. Unfortunately, there are only three songs on the demo tape.

Dizzy, the first song, starts out heavy and gives a definite hint as to what lies ahead. Solid riffs, tight drum sets and the bass, an often ignored instrument, is slightly more prominent and of high quality. Emi's voice is different but familiar, like the sound of the band.

The second track, Crossing, has lyrics with such content and emotion that they leave the listener with a satisfying feeling of hope mixed with sadness, an emotion usually reserved for the end of a well-written novel or film.

The final song is reminiscent of I Mother Earth's early work (Rain Will Fall). It has an excellent climax and the guitar is impressive.

Overall, their music and stage performance is impressive considering the age range of the band members is 19 to 22 and they have been performing for about three weeks. The talent these guys possess is evidence of what 10 years of practice and experience with an instrument can do.



Top left: Emi Rapoport, lead singer of Ego Rich; above: bassist Jamie Mahn; left photo: Mahn (left), Rapoport (middle) and lead guitarist Bart Milczarczyk (right) in a group shot.

(Photos by Angela Clayfield)